

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING BUDGET ADOPTION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC MEETING

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC BUDGET WORK SESSION

MINUTES

A Budget Adoption Meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School in the Auditorium with the following members present: Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Traficante, Mrs. Culhane and Mrs. McFarland. Mr. Nero, Dr. Lundsten, Mrs. Coogan, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Votto, Mrs. Nota-Masse, Mr. Dillon and Attorney Cascione were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Traficante, and seconded by Mr. Lombardi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation (Contract Negotiations' Update- Bus Drivers/Trades People/Mechanics, Custodians); (Secretary Arbitration Award); (Teacher Assistants/Technical Assistants/Bus Aides Arbitration Award).

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Roll Call / Quorum – A quorum was present.

There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – February 23, 2011

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the February 23, 2011 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

Minutes of Previous Meetings Approved – January 31, 2011

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the minutes of January 31, 2011 be approved.

Public Acknowledgements / Communication

Ms. Iannazzi acknowledged the Council Vice President, Rob Pelletier and Councilman, Richard Santa Maria who have joined us.

Mr. Lombardi

I'd also like to acknowledge two members of Troop 8 who are here for their merit badge Citizenship in the Community. Welcome gentlemen.

Superintendent Nero

I'd like to also, while we're here publically, as you know last night we had a meeting over at the Briggs Building that was heavily attended

that was in the Journal and reported well in the paper today; I would like to tell you that these meetings with the School Committee, although they don't get paid, I would also like to thank Ms. Leone last night for being in the middle of the heat of the battle last night and doing such a yeoman job of making sure to take copious minutes of those meetings. I'd like to thank you publically for that.

Chairperson's Communications

Ms. Iannazzi

I will defer my Chairperson Communications for Budget deliberations.

School Committee Member Communications

Mr. Lombardi

Thank you. Madam Chair, as we undertake this task and I'm happy to see that there are two members of the City Council here, the task that we call the Budgetary Task. Each and every year I say the same thing at the beginning of this process although we're enmeshed in the middle of it right now, is that it really is an artificial process because of the way the law is set up. We need to submit a balanced budget on or before this week, Monday, and that budget has to be submitted to the Mayor and the City Council. We have to submit proposed lay-offs based on that budget. The problem is that when you look at those numbers you have to base them on a budget that's going to be submitted by the Mayor on or before April 1st of that same year. You also have to wait until May 15th, 2011 to determine what the City

Council, if anything, is going to do with the Mayor's budget and adopt it. And then, we still have to wait until the end of June to determine what the State Aide is to the School District relative to the State's issuance of money to us. We have to do this tonight and Monday night before knowing all of those critical variables in the budgetary process. We have to do this looking at things in a distance and realizing that this will only come to fruition at the end of the year when we know what the State Aide is; when we know what the Mayor has proposed and when we know what the City Council will appropriate to us. There are only two major sources of revenue to this School Committee. That is State Aide and Municipal Aide. Those are the two; we live and die by State Aide and Municipal Aide. We don't know what those numbers are yet; but we're being asked not only to pass a budget this week, but also to send out lay-off notices by March 1st based on that budget. I say this all the time; it's an artificial number, folks and we're going to do our best. We have done our best; we have listened to everything that's happened. We have survived, barely, what the remnants of Caruolo and I invite, because there are members of the City Council here again, the members of the City Council and the Mayor's Office to tell us if we are not at the Basic Education Plan; meet with us and tell us where we are over that Basic Education Plan. I invite the members of the City Council and the Mayor's Office to look at the Consent Order and indicate where we are not in compliance with that Consent Order. Lastly, I invite the members of the City Council and the Mayor's Office to meet with us and tell us where we have not complied with the Performance Audit

which is part of that Consent Decree. I would submit to you; this is not a confrontational thing; we're all in this together. Schools and education are as much a City service as police and fire are. The Superintendent has done the best he can with less. We're going to be asking for a budget tonight based on those assumptions. Please, and I use the word again, we need all to be realistic about what is happening in our school district. I know we are at the Basic Education Plan and we need money merely to preserve that Basic Education Plan. Listen to us with open ears; come and meet with us; speak with us; tell us where we can do better if we haven't done so and I thank you for that.

Chairperson Iannazzi

As Mr. Lombardi has said in his comments, there will be an additional school committee meeting on the budget and that is scheduled for February 28th, Monday, at 4:30 p.m. here at Western Hills. For those of you who are interested, we have also scheduled a meeting to resolve the Prayer/Banner issue at Cranston West. That is scheduled for March 7th at 6:00 p.m. here at Western Hills as well.

Public Hearing

a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Matters)

There were none.

b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)

Jay DeCristofaro, Principal – Glen Hills School

Madam Chair, will you be entertaining speakers as you make the various amendments tonight? Ms. Iannazzi answered that they must speak now.

I've been in the District for a long time now and I'm very well aware of the dire straights that we're in at this point in time. I'm also aware of the job that you have to do and none of this is taken lightly. I hope that my words will not be taken as those of a man who complains about the color of his bulk-head as a tornado is coming across the field toward his house. But instead, taken from a man who cares about what he does; loves what he does; is grateful for the job that I have and also, irrevocably I am fairly compensated for what I do. But I also feel as though that...I would like to think that I give, not only my students but their families and the District and also the tax payers of the City, their money's worth each and every day. That said, I would just like to go back briefly in history as I speak for not only myself but for all of my colleagues as well.

A few years ago, I spoke with Dennis Charpentier, a colleague, and we talked about a possibility of going into administration. We were both team leaders at the time; we both felt we had leadership skills and we also felt that we could impact children on a more global way than we could just in our own classrooms. At that time, there was a disparity between a department chair at the middle school level and an entry level school principal of about \$2,000. Not much of an incentive. We overcame that because we wanted to make a difference; we wanted to go through and endure the training, the cost,

the time and the effort to get to where we are today to be a school administrator. At that time, there was a correction, about the time that I became an administrator, there was a correction; some things were done with salaries that made it more attractive for people to get into administration which is a good thing, because, at that time, it wasn't very attractive. Some things were done at that time and things leveled off and got to where we felt we should be and we moved onward. We became members of this group called CASA. At that time I didn't know very much about it other than going to meetings to meet and confer with organizations that would work out salaries, benefits, etc. as a group. Well...a few years back, that was at your hand, disbanded. We endured that and we endured the comments about the group "formerly known as CASA". Perhaps as a meet and confer group, yes, we are formerly but we're still here and we are about to redefine ourselves as a support group for one another and also to interface with Central Administration. But, we had to endure that. Then one night we sat over here and in about three minutes we got hit with 20% co-pay. Hardly any discussion; it just happened to us and we walked out saying, OK, we're the leaders and we got to take it. It's the way things are going. School Committee did what they had to do; we endured that. Then we start to hear about the next time around it's going to be 25% and we'll be the leaders there as well. Once again, we endured that. My fear right now is that as we go through this process, we're probably in the radar screen again. My concern about that is simply this. When you sit there and you take, no matter what your salary may be, if you take a zero year after year,

that's one thing. That's doing your part. That's the way I see it. I have no complaint about that. I still love the job I do and all of us do. But when you take a zero you understand that. Any move that you may make on us now can only be looked at as a cut. When it's a cut, that's a little different story and a big difference in my opinion because at that point it speaks, "Do they really understand what we do every day?" Then it also speaks to, "How much respect is there out there for what we do every day?" We care and those kids are important to us and my concern is that we may end up with a situation where some of our newer administrators are at the same point or less than some of our top teachers at some point. Again, a disincentive. I get concerned about losing good colleagues. I hope that the committee will take that into consideration. This is not easy for me because as I said that I love Cranston and I love this school district and I never want to say anything disparaging and I also understand what you're all up against. So, please, as you go through this process, consider the fact that our group; the people in our group who are on the front lines every day, have endured the zeros and without bargaining. There is no bargaining for us. It's just, "here it is". We can't make concessions. It's taken from us and there has to be a limit to that.

Madam Chairwoman, members of the School Committee, Superintendent Nero and Assistant Superintendent Lundsten, I do appreciate your time. Thank you.

Don Cowart, Principal at Hope Highlands

I have three children at Glen Hills School. This is my first time at the podium in six years. I keep my head down; I do my job and I keep going forward and I try to make a difference in the lives of my students and my school and my teachers. I never say or do anything because I'm a team player. I'm on board 100%. Not just for myself but for my colleagues, my teachers and even for my own children that I have at home. In thinking about that we could be in the radar again; in the crosshairs again and in talking to some of my colleagues, it dawned on me that maybe people don't know what we do. So, I'll take ten seconds because I have the podium and let you know what I do as an elementary principal.

I do every duty; lunch duty; recess duty; bus duty; cover for teachers who are not here every day; I'm the highest paid lunch lady in the District. When the custodians are not available or not around, I shovel the walk, put out the salt, move the cones, bring the kids in by hand so they don't fall and get hurt. When the nurse is not available, I clean up vomit, I stop bloody noses, I give band aids, I hold hands and I watch kids who are crying because they're upset. When my teachers are not available or they need coverage, I cover 1st grade, 2nd grade, etc. and occasionally kindergarten. I manage my staff effectively. I do all the observations for my building. I don't have anybody else. I do all the evaluations in my building. I meet with everybody for pre-conference and post-conference. I do all the faculty meeting agendas and run them by myself. I'm responsible for

all the Professional Development in my building. I do all the school improvement meetings, the plans and I'm heavily involved in my school PTO. I go through the NECAP data with a fine tooth comb to make sure that everything is going the way it's supposed to go and I'm happy to say my school is improving every single year, along with many other schools in our District. I write grants for the district. I just got finished writing one for potentially \$32,000 for my building in Technology. I did that in three days notice and updated it three times in the same day. I do the school budget and then when told to cut by 5%, I do it again. Then they tell me to cut it by 15%, I do it again and maybe at 20%, I'll do it again. I handle all the discipline; the good, the bad, the ugly; I suspend kids when I hate it. I make calls to parents when I know they're mad at me. I deal with all the stuff in my building. I'm the gate keeper and as far as I know, I don't know if you hear from Hope Highlands' people at all because I take care of Hope Highlands. That's my job. I get paid well to do it, but that's my job. I say that because I think it's important for people to know what we do. I don't want a pat on the back; I don't want a raise; I just want people to know what we do because I think it's important that people know what's happening in the buildings when they make hard decisions. I'm not going to go through the history because Mr. DeCristofaro already did that but I do want to take a few more minutes. There was a movie that came out called, "Waiting for Superman" and in that movie they talked about how we needed people to come into education. It's mostly about Charter Schools but it was about kids who were not doing well and I had read a number of articles that said,

“Forget waiting for Superman, what we really need to wait for is good Principals”, because that’s probably the one person in the building that could impact positive/negatively the direction in the building; the vision and the moral of the staff. I think you have a lot of good principals here and I can say for myself, Jay is the principal for my three daughters and in a very short amount of time he’s turned that building around. It’s a much better place for kids; much better place for teachers; a much better place for parents. As a parent and a taxpayer in Cranston, I am thrilled to have Mr. DeCristofaro as the principal and I’d hate to see him or anybody of his caliber go because they feel under valued, not appreciated or they feel they have an opportunity to go some place else because in Cranston things are not going the way they are supposed to go. I guess the bottom line is this. If you decide to cut pay or do anything that impacts us or looks as it’s a hit, I think what is going to happen is people are going to think twice about staying in Cranston. They’re going to look for jobs in other places. They are going to feel that this is not a good place to work. I think that in the short term, that may seem like not a big deal because people say all the time that if you leave we’ll get somebody else. I don’t know if you will get somebody else who can do what I do. I can tell you about a half of dozen occasions or more, I’ve probably saved the District from lawsuits for special education situations that you would have no idea about because I’m a problem solver. I deal with the problems. I sit across the table and I deal with the problems. So instead of a parent going to the next level and the next level and so on, and getting a lawyer and then suing us, I take

care of that and make the problem go away. I don't know if somebody else is going to be able to do the same thing. I guess I'm rambling a little bit but my bottom line point is I think people need to know that they're valued, appreciated; even if they're not getting pay raises; even if they're taking increases in co-pay, even if year after year they are looked at as being the only well you can go to. At some point you go to the well one too many times and then you're at a breaking point. Take those things into consideration as you go through the meeting tonight and making decisions in regards to building administrators.

Mr. Tomlins, Farmington Ave., Cranston

I would hope you would let me digress just a little bit tonight but it really isn't digressing because I attended the meeting last night for the sub-committee for the banner questions and although we may have differences, I never hesitate to speak up when I see two individuals, in particular, truly act like statesmen. That was Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Traficante. They spoke both from the mind and their heart. It's obvious they gave great consideration to what they were saying. Their body language, which I follow, is absolutely perfect. They looked the audience in the eye; they knew what they were saying and why they were saying it. I think they should be congratulated because it's not an easy thing for this situation that we're in. As far as Ms. Culhane, I think she spoke eloquently also. She's a little on one side and I have to give her credit for bringing up the issue of money. I think she said it was an \$8 million deficit that

we're facing. She's torn between that and maybe adding more money because of this suit. I think when we talk about education it isn't just A,B,C's, it's also about trying to produce students who are going to go out to be citizens; they've got to be taught the difference between right and wrong. There is too little of that now; they want to be good citizens. That as much as teaching them to be good citizens, contributing to the society, to doing good, to giving up some of their time and to give back to the public even when they're in school, a different association. I think that's also a big part of education and I don't think any educator would argue with me on that.

Now getting to the budget, these two gentlemen, I think they both said that they were principals. I don't doubt for a minute they're extremely good at what they do. They are probably as good as anybody can get but it's not a question that we don't have professional people. I pointed out before; I thought the Director of Music, the Director of Sports, and our Superintendent was as fine and as talented and as worthy men to be doing the work their doing as anybody I've ever sat down with and I say that from an awful lot of experience. I've sat down with hundreds during my tenure following education. The problem is; it's a matter of money. It's not a matter of taking away from people. We know where 88% of the budget is. I don't want to see...you know there's an article in Sunday's paper. The essence of the article, which is almost everything I believed in, we're not that far away from Wisconsin or Ohio, Illinois or California and New York. My concern would be that if we don't do what has to

be done now, you got to follow the data as they say. I'd like to say that sets you free because if you follow the data and you understand the data and you present it in an equitable way, the public is not going to argue with it really. They may be disappointed because you have to do this and do that or they're not going to argue with you. What Mr. Bloom started out to do, I think was fine; but I believe that his bottom line still was we were going to be roughly \$5 million in the hole. Now, that's not as bad but it's not good. Where can you possibly make that up? As the Superintendent said many, many times that he doesn't know where he could cut; we already have cut right to the bone. The things that I've been talking about a long time; special teachers, music, sports, EPIC Program; that's dangerous to be talking about cutting. That's really dangerous. The only thing all of us have to keep in mind is the students. Yes we have to treat the teachers, principals, and administrators as best we can but that's going to be taken away from us if you don't act now. Somebody's going to come along; some entity is going to tell us what to do. I don't think we're Central Falls but we're talking about an awful lot of money; the City doesn't have a lot of money and although Mr. Bloom did an admirable professional job, he's standing alone there. It would be wise if the president of this committee and the president of the council could get together, support that and more and present that. Moreover, what really should be happening is, when I spoke about it for a year and a half, the Mayor has to get involved. He's the chief executive of this City. Nobody that is on the City payroll can lead better than that position and if you don't take the five-year plan and

have everybody involved, every union, every administrator, the council, your committee, every committee and every interested party and get them all in the same room, we will never solve the problem. You're not going to solve the problem by going school committee to council to Mayor and visa-versa because there's another 46 or whatever it is presented the budget that they're responsible for too. It's often been said that they don't have a lot of authority. Let me tell you something; if I was the chief executive and I was responsible for raising the money to pay for the whole budget of the City, I would find a way to get involved and do the job that has to be done. And, I wouldn't start talking about the Charter School either. I'll give you a quick example: When I went to work at Howard Johnsons, the new president came in about the same time I did. I was brought in to try to make their system work and I came to buy, sell and all that kind of neat stuff. The organizer that had that responsibility came from the Marriott. He worked under Bill Marriott who was also a friend of mine who was the son of the founder. He wanted to start a hotel program. First of all he had a motel program that was sick and we had a restaurant that was sick. That program was sick. When you talk about a hotel it's entirely different than a motel; absolutely from stem to stern. I've been there; I've done that. I spoke up as much as I could and you know what happened? They went bankrupt because he put all his effort; of course you couldn't blame all the new administrators because they followed him; he was the new man in town. You can't do it. You can't spend money on a Charter School when you don't have enough money to run the school system that

you have. I'm not against Charter Schools; there are a lot of them that's done great work but you can't introduce a new program when you have a program that you can't handle now, just to have your name on a plaque in perpetuity. That's not what it should be all about, ladies and gentlemen so I'm just going to plead one more time and my wife said, "Dick you're getting angry". My daughter said, "Dick you're getting...father, you're getting frustrated". I am because I know we're running out of time and I don't want to see somebody come in in a year or two years and tell you what you have to do. That's where we'll be heading and moreover that would be the worse thing that could happen to the teachers and the administrators. Then they would have no say in what's going on. Let's keep everybody involved; let's everybody understand from the council to the Mayor's office to your committee; everybody that's involved, it's a City problem. It's not just your problem because we all know where the money is and if you don't follow the money you'll not be doing your job. I implore all of you to try to work together; put aside a lot of things that you may have thought was right or wrong before and make sure; put the pressure on the people where it has to be put. It's not out here but where it is; you know where it is and it's going to have to be, otherwise I feel that you're not going to have the authority that you have now and the ability to establish the kind of education for our students that you want to do. Thank you.

Lizbeth Larkin, Cranston Teachers' Alliance & Teacher at Park View –
Gr. 7 Social Studies

I wasn't going to speak tonight but after listening to these two wonderful principals speaking and also Mr. Tomlins, I had to speak. Many times for those people who are newcomers, I'm going to say it 100 more times through this process and for the City Council members that are here. The Cranston Teachers' Alliance over the years has had a historical relationship with the City to step up to the plate whenever they needed it. Most of the people that have been here, Mr. Nero, Mr. Traficante and others that have been negotiating contracts in the past, have known that we have in many occasions given back. We have deferred; taking zeros. We were the only union for many years that had a 12% cost share when not one other person stepped up to the plate. Not one other group stepped up to the plate. I don't blame those people but we did step up to the plate and we had a 12% cost share many, many years ago and the only way that we negotiated to a 5% cost share was changing our entire health care benefit package to save the City millions and millions of dollars. We have deferred money, which is the no-interest free loan. Many times when people retire they get a \$1,500/with tax taken off and basically for some reason all those years of doing that and we did get a raise this year but coming off of many years of zero % and raising our cost share from 5% to 15% to then 17% and we are getting no credit at all; we are actually getting demoralized and de-valued and I feel the same way that Mr. DeCristofaro feels. Basically, I don't think it's necessary to go that route. Now, Mr. Tomlins, I have to say that we have been underfunded; they have not kept the Maintenance of Effort; we have been level-funded and if we are level-funded again it will really be as if

we are being cut or under-funded. Things are expensive. The CTA that represents the teachers, support staff, teacher assistants, and bus aides in this district can not give enough concessions for 7 – 8 million dollar deficit. The secretaries, although I don't represent them, have also given back. They had given back greatly and they have a very high cost share and they make the least amount. I know I'm going over my time, but, I don't think that demoralizing and beating up on employees whether it's principals, teachers, support staff, T.A.'s, custodians or secretaries is going to get us anywhere. And, you mention the key words of Wisconsin and all those other places; last year we used to hear East Providence, East Providence, and East Providence. I don't think making those comments really does us any good as far as making those kind of threats because you get more done with collaboration and we've been collaborating long before Commissioner Gist ever thought of it and long before Arnie Duncan invited us to be recognized in Denver as collaboration. We got out there and we found out that many of the people were just working through collaboration. We were very comfortable and had our own conversations with Ms. Iannazzi and Mr. Nero and we went off and broke off and kind of discussed what we were going to do moving forward because we weren't battling it out in some room with a mediator. I would really hate to see it get to that point when we have a lot of new people coming into this district and somehow want to put up their dukes and have a fight. That is not good for the students. And, students are first but you need a support staff; you need the teachers and the principals; they are the ones that make

great education happen. Now, Mr. Tomlins, you said all those dangerous things, EPIC, Strings, Band, Chorus, Career & Technical Training, Theatre and all those things; those were the jewels of Cranston School Department. Those have already been cut. We are at the BEP. They have been cut, cut, cut, cut, cut; we have been dismantled and we still are continued to be level-funded and demoralized. Teachers pay; for those of you who have their own businesses or in corporate America or have worked another job; the starting salary of a teacher in Cranston is \$37,940. It takes them eleven years and eleven steps to get up to what my daughter started out as when she graduated the University of San Diego. She's very close to what I make and she's been out three years and has a very good package. But I am a dedicated educator. I'm an advocate for the people that I represent and I think that they deserve a lot better than the conversations that are happening in here. We have no line-items; we have salary and we have benefits. We don't have uniforms; we don't have dry cleaning and I'm not saying to my brothers and sisters who have those kind of things in their contracts. We do not have those. We cannot cut money and say, "Excuse me, you give us \$500 a piece for supplies so we'll give that back so we can save Cranston Public Schools". We don't have that. That's not what we have. We have salary and we have benefits and we have stepped up to the plate many times. And, any one of these people sitting here, except for you Mr. Bloom because you are new, know that we have come to the table and had many side conversations to offer some kind of help. Therefore, these were really the jewels that

have been cut; we have lost valuable staff and teachers' pay top step for those of you....this is public so....it's \$73,710 and out of that they pay their health care and benefits; they're paying tuition back. You have a kid coming out that has 100 -200 thousand dollars in some cases in bills. They have to pay a car payment. They have to pay to live and they make \$37,000. So yes, 25% cost share is a lot. Unilateral cuts are a lot. Breaking a contract that has been done in good faith, goes both ways. I wouldn't want my people that I represent saying, "My contract isn't good". I don't think we should go that way and we are not Wisconsin; we are not East Providence and actual fact, we should look around to all the communities and what they're doing and what they're...how they're treating their people and that is not how to save Public Schools. Thank you.

Sean Gately, Cranston

I came to speak on behalf of just being a tax payer in Cranston and as we all know, we've read the news locally here and never mind just what's happening with the Cranston Schools and everything else. Just being a tax payer here in Cranston and being a life-long resident and growing up in Garden City as a kid. Ten years ago I decided to move my family back here because I wanted to raise my kids here in Cranston. I've seen my taxes go from \$4,000 in 2001 to \$12,000 this year (combined). You hear on the radio and in the press about shared sacrifice and everything to that affect. From being a private sector guy, when I was 24 years old, the first job I had I was making \$10 an hour. I'm 42 now and I've had to work my butt off my entire

life to do so. I pay \$1,000 per month for health insurance for my family. My 401K is a 101K. My house value has dropped 30% in the last three years since I built my house in Western Cranston. I don't have the answers and I try to always tell everybody in my professional life, if you got a problem at least you can attempt to bring the solution to the table. We're so far gone at this point in time, the Basic Education Plan; I know what every single one of you sitting here at these tables right now, don't wake up and didn't run for this office because you were excited about providing a Basic Education Plan. My son attends Orchard Farms School. Mrs. Iacobucci is his teacher and I kneel down and praise her for the work that she's done. She is one of the most amazing people in the world and I wouldn't want to have anybody else teach my son other than Mrs. Iacobucci. She is utterly amazing. But at some point in time, as a tax payer here in the lovely City of Cranston that I've lived my entire life and dedicated myself to, professional, financially and politically, we have to do something. We can't sit back. We can't sit here and go to another Caruolo Action, if that's being considered. That again, is just another payment out of my pocket. We shut down Budlong Pool; we tried shutting off every third street light; what is next? I understand that there are sacrifices that we have but I say seventeen to twenty-five foreclosures in my neighborhood in the last three years. People in the private sector are hurting. I myself have taken a 60% pay cut over what I was making three years ago. I didn't have a choice about that and I respect every single teacher that we currently have. This isn't about bashing teachers or bashing unions or where

we're at. This is reality that we're facing at this point in time. We're at ground zero with this. There is no more wiggle room left. There is nothing to that affect and drastic measures have to be taken. I'm just asking that you please don't raise my taxes. I know some people in Cranston would appreciate it if I actually moved out of Cranston but I'm not going to. I'm still going to be here but at the rate its going, our taxes are just going to keep getting higher and higher and more and more people are going to leave. A lot of the people who pay the taxes; who pay the salaries; who provide the benefits; provide the retirement plans and the pension funds are going to leave. The more people that leave that pay the taxes in this City, the less people are going to be left to pay. Unfortunately, that's where we're at, on top of what we face from a State-wide standpoint and the economy and everything else that we have. Study after Study, Rhode Island is the worse place to do business and everything else like that. That trickles down to Cranston. You bring the article up with the \$225 million unfunded pension liability in Cranston; we're ranked number two. I think the three cities at risk; you've got Central Falls which is already there and they list Cranston as number two. You have N. Providence and Woonsocket behind it thrown in there. This is Cranston. Everybody said whatever happens in Cranston so goes the State of Rhode Island. We have a beautiful city; we have a diverse community of lower, middle class and upper class; from Ridgewood Estates to Arlington is what our city covers and at some point in time the madness has to stop. All I ask is for everyone on the committee; Committee member Bloom, thank you for putting forth the 5-year

plan; glad to see that there's some pro-active steps instead of re-active steps that we have and I implore you whatever we can do not to raise taxes further in this city. It is going to benefit all of us in the long run. But in the private sector as well as the public sector, we're all hurting badly; small businesses; personal people, professional people; and I just implore you all to please act wisely; think wisely before you take the next step. Thank you very much.

Mr. Lombardi

Mr. Gately, if you don't mind staying. Typically, I don't respond but I think that the principle conception out there is that some how there's a cause and effect between the School Department and the raising of taxes. There really isn't. I know you know that; you're a bright guy. The more important question to ask yourself is that your taxes and my taxes are going up but the fact of the matter is the School Department has not reaped the benefit of those increased taxes the last three years. We have been level funded the last three years. When people tell you that you got a million dollars, we got a million dollars because we were owed a million dollars. When people tell you, you got three million dollars; we got three million dollars because the courts told us we were underfunded for two years. When we are underfunded for two years as a school department and then we were level funded three more years as a school department, there's no cause and effect between those taxes and the school department. I appreciate everything that you're saying. I agree with you. I would have loved all of those tax increases that we've had. I

would have loved to have taken the blame for those tax increases because we wouldn't be in the hole that we're in today if some of that money realized from those tax revenues went to the School Department. I just wanted to respond.

Mr. Gately

And, just to quickly respond to you is as the school budget does constitute and forgive me Mr. Tomlins, I think he said 82% total of.....

Mr. Lombardi

What Mr. Tomlins said was 88% of our budget is related to payroll and benefits.

Mr. Gately

So out of \$132 million in taxes that have to be assessed and collected in the city of Cranston, I believe the current budget that Superintendent Nero put in front of us is right around \$133 million, if I'm correct? So, there is a direct cause and effect. I'm not sitting here trying to blame anybody that's sitting behind these tables here. This is the reality of where we are at. My wife and I live in our home. I lost 60% of my income. I'm in sales. I make commission off of what I sell. I had to make a decision; we don't go out to dinner. My son goes to Orchard Farms. I got rid of my cars. I bought used automobiles that I have. We don't go out and buy new clothes. We have made sacrifices as individuals here. I don't have all the answers which is the most frustrating thing and it's unbelievable the position

all of you sitting behind those tables, are in. I don't envy you at this point in time in any way, shape, manor or form but I'm just trying to speak on behalf of being a tired, worn out, semi-broke tax payer. Coming back, whatever the situation is; and it's not anybody's fault. These contracts have been going on and this whole problem has been festering for 25-30 years that we're facing. We're right now at the head of where it is at and it's not just here; it's every single community across the State that is going to be facing these difficult decisions that everyone of you have to make. I just hope that at some point in time when I leave my house, I want to leave my house feet first on a gurney. I don't want to have to put a "For Sale" sign in front of my house. I want my children to grow up the same way because all of us sitting around here who are originally from Cranston; I still have friends of mine from first and second grade. I wanted my children to have the same benefits that I did as a child. I'm just hoping that some way we will be able to solve this crisis and do it in an equitable manner. I just say that the next tax increases that we see will be a direct result of where the current school department budget is at. I just hope that we can do something to change it. Thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Lombardi

I don't disagree with you at all. I agree with everything that you said. I just don't want the public to believe that the tax increases they have felt over the last three years have been given to the school department.

Chairwoman Iannazzi

Mr. Gately, I just want to caution you on thatmaybe you should look at some of the contracts on the municipal side that the tax increases have funded, instead of laying blame on the school department.

Mr. Gately

I'm not laying blame. I would lay blame equally across the entire spectrum. This isn't just about the school department. This is across the board where bad decisions have been made for years and years here in the City.

Ms. Iannazzi

Here is a good statistic for you next time you go to a council meeting maybe you can use it. When Mayor Laffey was leading the city, 58% of the budget was given to schools. Fifty-eight percent of all city money was going to the school budget. The last Napolitano budget was 51% and I think the Fung budget is now up to about 52/53%. We have actually been de-funded to fund the increase in services on the city side.

Mr. Bloom

Mr. Gately, you've raised a good issue and it's actually part of what I tried to address in the five year plan that was entered a couple of weeks ago. This city is drowning; the State and the country for that

matter, in pension and retiree benefits. The one line item on the city budget, which is listed as long-term debt, is not long-term debt; it's unfunded pension liability. Six or seven years ago, I believe under Mayor Laffey, at one point that was about \$6 million. I believe the City Council, this year, is going to be looking at a \$24 million funding. That's \$18 million in seven years. We would have plenty of money to address all of the issues that the City....that's just one line item on the City Budget. That's the unfunded pension liability for a pension plan that is closed. Every single department within the City Budget also has new pensions and retiree benefits. And the school district has the same issue; we have \$8 million in our budget for pension funds and our health is \$16 million. Those numbers are going to be 13, 14, or 15 percent more next year because we lag under the funding formulas for those which are set by the State. I tried to shift some of that responsibility, the increases and what I proposed, to the City because it makes it a problem for everybody within the school district because we all have to address it. The entire City and the entire State has to address pension reform because if we don't, we're not going to get control over the positions. That's cost us at least \$20 million which is 1/10th of the City Budget. That's where the money is.

Mr. Gately

Yes, and I agree. My point was that band aides on bullet wounds are no longer sufficient at this point in time and that's not saying what you all are attempting to do. As everybody sitting around the table knows, I've run for office and to those of you who have had the

opportunity in the Knightsville section and the Arlington section; when you speak to somebody at their house who is 80 years old; who has to chose between heating oil, food and blankets for his wife because their property taxes are so high and what they pay in property tax is four times the amount of whatever they paid in their mortgage bills and they are on a fixed income, what can we do? Not only just you as elected officials but we as individual citizens because it's unfair that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of people like that across Cranston that are facing those decisions every single day. And, the tax burdens and everything else that we face and I know I'm just talking superlatively here, but we have to fix it. As people know, I'm part of BASICS and that is what our thing is, "Let's just fix it". Let's figure out a way to fix it and that's all I want.

Mr. Bloom

Write a letter to the General Assembly and tell them that we need pension reform!

Mr. Traficante

I just want to make a general comment. I want to speak to Liz, to Don and to Chris and to all the other administrators and teachers that are in the audience. I am keenly aware; I'm going back to the 70's and the 80's and 90's; I'm keenly aware of the many times that our collective bargaining units have stepped up to the plate to help salvage the crisis that we're in for several years. We know; we're very much aware that you people want to be part of the solution and not part of

the problem. You have proven that many, many times. We are proud of the job you do; we appreciate the job you do; we look forward once again to work with you to help solve the problem. I can assure you one thing, and I'm speaking for Mike Traficante, I will not make a brash and an illegal decision that the East Providence School Committee made last year. We plan on working with our bargaining units to resolve our problem. We look forward to working with you to resolve our problem, not only amongst ourselves but with the City Council and the Mayor, with your support. Thank you.

Lizbeth Larkin

I just want to remind people that the people that are in the collective bargaining units as well as all of the other people that work for the school district are also hurting in their ways. They are tax payers; they support the public schools; most of them live in this community and also if you are aware, we have had three changes in reforms to our pensions in the last five years and they have had age change in the amount you're going to get. But if people are aware of the fact that Cranston is a non-social security group. So therefore, what the people relied on was working and not being in corporate America and not having 401K's and that and not making the kind of money that corporate America made at the time when things were good. We did not cause the banking crisis and we have stepped up to the plate. In the case of Social Security, we don't have other options. We need a pension. If my husband pre-deceases me, I don't get his Social Security even though he has been self employed. And for those of

you that know us, well, he was a sea captain for many years. We owned fishing boats. I know full well what it is like to be under a government that collapses on certain things. Therefore, many, many teachers and their families and public employees are feeling the same things; but, where are we going to be after dedicating. You know Mr. Traficante, Mr. Nero, where are we going to be if we have no social security; we can only claim a percentage of it; we can't get our spouses social security so we rely on some sort of a pension. I did not nor did any of our members nor did any public employee do anything to make the collapse. So, your right, Mr. Traficante, we need to work together. I'll be more than happy to do that. Thank you.

Kerri Kelleher, Cranston

I wasn't going to speak tonight and I will probably be the briefest speaker you've had all evening. I first of all want to applaud Mr. Bloom. I've been asking for a five year plan and I know a lot of people have to fix the problem in this City. You were the first person that I actually have seen go through great lengths to do that and to get something rolling. And, I seriously hope that the parents, union members, teachers, community members, and school committee members are behind what you're doing. There are parts of your plan that I don't even understand and I've tried to figure it out the best I can but it's a plan. And it's a plan that isn't a band aide on a bullet or a plan that is going to fix this year. It's a plan that could fix the next year and the year after that and put us in a place where there's a future and we can look to rebuilding programs and rebuilding our

schools and fixing buildings and building better buildings. It's the first sign I've seen in a long time of forward motion and I want to thank you for giving me faith and hope that, maybe, if we can explain to people what your thinking and get them to buy into it, that we can work with the City Council and with the Mayor. The problem isn't the union; the problem isn't the principals; the problem isn't the parents or the school committee or the administration. There's no money in the City; there's no money for the schools; there's no money in Rhode Island; there's no money anywhere. But until the School Committee and the Mayor and the City Council get together and see what we're going to do as a community to fix Cranston, not the public schools, not the police department, not the fire department but the City of Cranston, you might as well sit at these meetings and bang your head against the wall. The City Council does the same thing. We are one City. It's not about East Side or West Side and not about where you live. You live in Cranston. This is a great City. I'm thrilled that I moved here despite everything that's going on because I think there are smart people in this City and there are people who care. None of you are up here doing this for free; because it's fun. You're giving a huge amount of time; there are people who care and people who are vested. You're not the only ones so don't work alone any more. Use the people in the City that want to work with you and get a plan like Mr. Bloom's or a modification or whatever and work from both sides of the aisle and figure something out. It could happen. We could have beautiful things happening. I just beg you all to please work together with the other elected officials in the City and

let's see if we can figure out a way to move forward. Thank you.

Ms. Iannazzi

There being no more people from the public who wish to speak, there was a request from a colleague for a five minute break.

Consent Calendar / Consent Agenda

There is no consent agenda this evening, reported by Ms. Iannazzi.

A motion was made by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mr. Lombardi, on Resolution No. 11-02-16, for discussion:

Mr. Traficante

I place before each of the members of the committee a memorandum dated January 31st from Mr. Balducci from Mr. Nero which basically outlines and illustrates the 2011-2012 budget impact associated with a reduction in sports program. If you look at it, the original budget was approximately \$130,000. Permanent reductions regarding the elimination of freshman sports and intramural sports which amounted to \$45,000 which left a balance of \$84,928 minus the \$5,000 that Veolia gave as a donation and the balance was \$79,928. That's the exact amount of money that the Charter School Board voted to donate to the Sports Program and the last page gives you a breakdown of all the sports related activities that that money will cover and sponsor.

Superintendent Nero

Just so we can clarify this regarding the Veolia Grant donation; last year with the \$5,000 and with the Charter School donation it was enough to cover everything. Much against my recommendations if we want to check the record, the school committee; some members went in and continued to make cuts to a variety of different things here. In fairness, that \$5,000 and what the donation was last year, was to fully cover everything except for Freshmen Football, Baseball and Basketball. For the record, that's why and again, as you know I was frustrated that night because the money was there to do everything that we had in place.

Mrs. Culhane

I'm sitting where I sat last year on this issue and I'm very frustrated once again because there are so many things in this budget that are being cut that have been cut that are important to so many of us. I'm going to be frank; I suck at sports and I always have. I don't know about sports; I never played sports and I was never good at it but I can sing. I'm a fantastic singer. I was on debate team; I was in model legislature; I was in student senate; I did mock trial. Those were the things that I excelled at. I feel, once again, when we have a private organization come to us that says, "We want to save sports". What message does that send to a kid like me who wasn't good at sports? I feel like that message is, "You're not good enough. We don't value you", to the musicians. Think of all the programs; I was talking with our two high school principals; the programs that we had to cut; the extra curricular programs that these students don't have any more. A

student like me would have had very little opportunity in school to excel in things that quite frankly, got me into the colleges I got into. It was those extra curricula's. That's what made the difference for me. So while it's great that we can do this, I'm very saddened by the fact that we can't take this money and spread it around a little bit. That we couldn't say, "Let's save some other things". Once again, as I said last year, where's the white knight that's saving the Music Program. Where's the white knight that's going to say, "Yeah, you, kid who's a nerd and is in the Chess Club; we value you". On a different note, I'm still perplexed as to why the money that comes from a Cranston Public School is a donation to us. I requested several weeks ago financials from the Charter School through their Finance Director. I've yet to receive them which frustrates me. I'm just perplexed to understand how we keep sitting here year after year. If we are going to say that the Charter School is in fact Cranston's third public high school then how is it that one of Cranston's Public Schools is making a donation back to Cranston Public Schools. While I don't feel that I can say no to this money because I know there's a lot of students who are depending on it who obviously have seen this and figured it was a done deal and haven't come to fight for their sport, I also am saddened that we sit here again and once again, when we talk about that band aid on a gapping wound; we're just going to be sitting here next year.

Mr. Traficante

Your gratitude is overwhelming. First of all, we are not a private

organization. We never have been a private organization. By State Law, we are a public charter high school. That's number one. Number two: We were asked by the Superintendent to approach the Board of Directors and Mr. Sabitoni, which I did, to basically help the School Committee in finding \$79,000 and change from our budget to help sports programs again this year. That's approximately \$80,000 that the school committee does not have to find in our budget this year. We approached the board and they gave us permission to go forward and the donation is there. I don't care what you call it, whether it be a donation, a contribution; I don't care what you call it but it's there to be used by the sports program. We particularly want the money to go to the sports program because our kids cannot participate in any of the music programs in the high schools. Cannot; because of where we are located; because of our scheduling. They do however, participate in the sports program and they have participated over the years. That's one of the main reasons why we want to contribute to the sports program because many of our kids are in these programs. Number three: You requested information from our Fiscal Manager. She is on vacation this week. She is writing up, not only what we're going to provide you, she is also going to give you information...you made a comment in the newspaper that we generate a surplus every year. That's totally erroneous. We have not generated a surplus every year. You could ask Mr. Balducci that question. One year we had a \$39,000 deficit. One other year we had a \$122,000 deficit. Am I correct Mr. Balducci. We don't generate a surplus every single year. When we did generate

a surplus it was because we hustled. We were aggressive in getting grants that say and do tens of thousands of dollars to support our budget. As a result, we were able to put that money aside for a rainy day fund. Apparently we are in a rainy day mode right now and that contribution was made out of the goodness of their hearts. Now if you don't appreciate it, that's fine. Just tell this whole board that you don't want the money; we'll gladly take it back and utilize it some place else. All I expect from this committee is to say, "Thank you for trying to help in this crisis".

Superintendent Nero

I've said this in the past and you're going to hear me talk about where we started from in 2003 to where we are now. Everything Mr. Traficante said is true to the point where his students don't have the fine arts, per say, that the other schools have. When I walked around with the Performance Auditing Team, one from their side and one from our side, we talked about what is necessary in this district and what is not. I will tell you, again, we spent, prior to last year, 2 ¼ million dollars on music and \$630,000 on sports. We already cut out middle school sports long before we had this Performance Audit. In fact we did it at the end of 2007-2008 year. I will tell you of the darkest time in my 33 years in this district of working in Cranston Public Schools and that was the night that the Superintendent in 2003 cut all sports as a result of the beginning portion of the litigation in Caruolo 2003-2004. I don't recall very many people who are here tonight who were at that rally at Cranston East when the kids were running in and

out of the building. I think you remember that, Jeannine, and what it was like when students were running in and out of the building and on to the middle of the street. By the way, the next day they were there with the Mayor on the bullhorn. Those are the days that I recall where I walked out and said that I am not proud to be a member of Cranston Public Schools. I think Councilman Santa Maria remembers that as well. I will tell you this; I look at my time of being a principal at Western Hills Middle School and I understand that baseball and basketball was important. The best sport that I had at Western Hills Middle School, when I was principal, was wrestling. Everybody participated and I was able to reel in kids who were not necessarily the best kids but we motivated them to give them something to do in terms of their sports activity in which case, we used that as the secret for their successful education. Every one of my kids who went out for wrestling knew that the wrestling coach expected that every single one of them was not ineligible from the time they started to the time they finished up the season. Now, when we looked at this with the auditing team going through the district, one of the things you need to understand is in middle school we realize we could cut sports because they could still play CLCF Football, Pop Warner, Eagle Football, etc. But, they can't do that necessarily when they get to high school. They do offer some outside basketball leagues but not a whole heck of a lot and there is Babe Ruth Baseball that starts outside the school year. During the school year if a kid wants to play football, the only show in town is high school football. There is no other opportunity. Although I respected a couple of weeks ago when

a parent got up and said that they offered music during the depression; my parents who are fine musicians; my mother's deceased; learned from a piano teacher that came to the house. There are plenty of activities that people do with their kids to put them in private music lessons and all those other things, in addition to, taking it within the school. They did it; they had the opportunity to take both. That's not necessarily the case when they get to high school. My son went out for swimming for the first time in his life as a senior and everybody knows the challenges that my son faced who for the first time in his life he was able to participate in anything else outside the school day for a lot of different reasons and for which case I was grateful to travel with the team. I will tell you that we have a budget of \$630,000 for sports and I went to Mr. Traficante because, again, I knew that he could help us out in this. For all those reasons that I delineated in this, we have programs in the high school for sports now that they would not get anywhere else except for in high school.

Mrs. McFarland

As a Board Member of the Charter School, my decision was based upon an article that I was able to read in an uncensored magazine. It speaks about reaching youth through sports: Access and attitude improves outcomes for at-risk use.

The Charter School actually deals with children that are at-risk at every level. Actually this was conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health and they found that the ratio for use of facilities for inner city children was really substandard. They talked about the fact that we needed to do comparison to really look at kids achieving at the same level and one of the ways they were able to achieve the highest level was actually participating in sports. The Charter School is all about looking at our at-risk population and alternative ways of learning and my job there is to make sure that those kids have every opportunity. As such, there were children that participate in no other program of after school activity other than sports. My decision is based upon that. I think that we have wonderful opportunities and we talked about the amount of money that's given to each area but there is no other access for kids as the Superintendent just said earlier, for them to participate in sports at that level. So with all due respect to everyone's concerns about where we are giving money to, it's always based upon where we're sitting and making decision on the boards that we serve on. That board is to make sure that we ensure programs for the at-risk youth population that attends the school that has to have alternative means of learning. No differently than we have to respect all the other alternative learning opportunities in this city and as such, I made my decision based upon that and reading the information that was brought down from Harvard School of Public Health. I think it is very important and if anybody has the opportunity to take a look at it, you should read the article as well. Thank you.

Mr. Lombardi

Thank you, Madam Chair. Before I say what I want to say, I'm going to say up front that I am biased because I am a sports official. I played sports all my life and sports have always been an important part of my life. I'm biased when it comes to that. I'm not a musician. I can't sing and I don't have those talents. I certainly wasn't an EPIC student while I was in high school but I can tell you that as a poor inner-city kid with no parents, growing up on Federal Hill, I never knew I was poor and one of the reasons why I never knew I was poor is because I always had sports. Sports was always there for me. Sports, I can say, may sound like a cliché, but sports saved my life. I also know being on the School Committee now on my third term, I know that one thing about the whole area of education and what educational needs are defined as, I know that everyone has parochial needs. Naturally, all of you are great parents. If your kid is a great musician, you're going to fight hard for music. If your kid is a great athlete, you're going to fight hard for Athletics. It goes without saying. I tried to make my daughters athletes. I was unsuccessful. And, they are good kids but we all have our parochial needs when it comes to our kids. I understand that. But, this is not about Music vs. Sports or vs. EPIC or vs. anything else that we're talking about. This is a donation being given to us by an entity earmarked by that entity because their students can reap the benefits of that donation. Mr. Traficante, I will not look a gift horse in the mouth. I say thank you to the Board of Directors and to Mr. Sabatoni and to all the members

and I, with open arms, accept your \$79,000 donation so that sports may save the lives of those kids. And, we know for every person that can talk well of sports, they can talk well of music. All of it is an integral part of their education but so is music and so is sports.

Mrs. Ruggieri

I just wanted to touch on the larger issue. At this point we really can't turn down any money that's coming our way; however, this is a concern I've had for two years now and that is where is this surplus coming from. When I looked through the Charter School's Budget and actually the original five year charter and then the next projected years, there is a line item in the budget that says, "Surplus". That item kind of grows expeditious throughout the years. I don't have it with me tonight. I will have it with me Monday night. There is no explanation as to where that surplus was coming from so when I did ask that question, I was given the answer that Mr. Traficante gave tonight and that is that they were aggressive in their grants and fundraising and things like that. But there was no data anywhere that I was shown that can say to me that this \$79,000 came from here or here. That's what I have been looking for. I looked for it last year and I am looking for it again this year. I'm not looking a gift horse in the mouth. What I am looking for is an explanation as to when we're in these financial times, how our third high school that we are fiscally responsible for, has money that we don't seem to be able to gather for ourselves. And, maybe we need to start working more collaboratively with the Charter School and use some of their

aggressive grant writing and fund raising to get that money for the rest of the public school system that they're helping to support at this time. That's where my concern is. I don't like pitting one program against another. I think anything that keeps any child in any school for whatever reason, is important. I think that we need to go back and start looking again at what our fiscal responsibilities are between the Charter School and Cranston Public Schools as a whole.

Mr. Traficante

I will gladly provide you with that information. I didn't realize you were looking for it but I will gladly provide it. Just for the sake of public information, we received a \$475,000 grant from the Department of Labor and Training about four years ago. We received in the last three or four years, over a million dollars in grants for our Alternate Education Program. We received from the RI Foundation about two years ago a \$30,000 grant and we received a \$75,000 grant this past year. We are aggressively pursuing another grant this year with our community college. We don't know where that's going to go but it could result in mega-bucks. Therefore, we have been extremely aggressive in that area and like I said, because we've been so aggressive, we've been able to subsidize some of our situations, especially with personnel, therefore putting aside a surplus for a rainy day. That surplus has not grown every year because we've had deficits in some years. In fact the year that we were cut over \$65,000 in State Aid and that did not grow that year. It has not grown every single year. The reason why we have those kinds of surpluses is

because of our aggressive nature. We have a person that works on grants every single day of the school year. We pay that person to pursue those grants. Perhaps the School Department should do like-wise. Hire a grant person.

Mrs. Culhane

I want to preface anything by saying that I think that the Charter School is a valuable school and provides a service to students, as Mrs. McFarland said, who would otherwise be lost in the system. I know and honestly believe that every minute that any student spends in that school is worthy and valuable and I support that school 100%. I too, as Mrs. Ruggieri, have questions about the budget; that is why I asked. I would like to see outlined for me where the aggressive fundraising comes from. Mr. Lombardi I too was a poor middle class kid who went to private school on scholarship. Sports didn't get me through; sports didn't keep me going. My family did and all of the other extra curricula's I was involved in helped keep me going. When we talk about who our kids are, all of the students of Cranston are our kids. I think that everybody sitting up here would feel that way. I'm just frustrated at what I see at times to be a lack of transparency. That's why I asked for those numbers; that's why I want to see them. I agree that at some point in time, maybe we need to sit down with the Charter School and see what they're doing so we can do the same kinds of things and have that money funneled into us as well. I'm not going to say "no" to this money. Obviously we can't say no to any

money that comes into the school but I just have questions and respectfully at some point I would like them answered because I did request them.

Mr. Traficante

It would be nice if you, rather than make statements in the paper, request the information first. You made a very erroneous statement in the Cranston Herald to be exact; therefore, in the future if you want information, I'll gladly support it. In fact Mrs. Ruggieri spent hours with us and with the sub-committee discussing from soup to nuts how our budget's formed and how the Charter School was formed, etc. She got educated that night. Actually it was several nights. If you want information, we're not ashamed to supply the information; we have nothing to hide, nothing at all. I just want to tell you right now, we are very aggressive because we realized that the Charter School can only survive, not only on tuitions, but on grants as well.

Mrs. Culhane

I just want to say through the chair that I requested this information before I made the comment in the paper. Mr. Traficante: You did not request that information. You did not. You asked for a quarterly report similar to what the school department does. That's what you asked for and that's what we were working on.

Chairperson Iannazzi

Also by way of comment, I just want to clarify because we do have

three members of the press here; I've been playing phone tag with Veolia Water. They are interested in coming through to contribute in some manner to Cranston. Not necessarily for sports but for something. I want to make sure that it's clear that it's not like we didn't use their money from last year. I want to make sure that Mr. Nero's explanation was clear. It was a surplus that was accumulated from cuts that Mr. Stycos, at the time, had suggested.

There being no further comment, the roll (vote) was taken:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Abstained

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 11-02-16 – WHEREAS, the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy has voted, through its Board of Directors, to donate a gift in the amount of \$79,928 to be earmarked to fund all high school sports that existed in the 2010-2011 school budget along with materials, supplies, transportation and event staff with the exception of freshmen football, baseball and basketball at Cranston High School East and Cranston High School West, and

Be it RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee accept said donation as earmarked.

Resolution 11-02-17 was withdrawn.

NO. 11-02-17 - RESOLVED, Whereas, there may be more qualified teachers who will apply for current positions, and a better fit for the district, and

Whereas, certain positions became available after the teacher selection of August 17, 2010 and more senior and/or qualified teachers may elect to occupy these positions, and

Whereas, there is uncertainty of sufficient Federal, State and local funding for general and categorical programs for the 2011-2012 school year, program reductions, student and district needs, consolidation of classes, re-alignment of staff and elimination of positions to more efficiently and effectively use the school system resources, and

Whereas, positions occupied by retirees must be posted each year, and

Whereas, positions must now be made available for more senior teachers who are scheduled to return from leave, and

Whereas, the teacher does not have the required certification, and there may be more qualified individuals who will apply for these

positions, and

Whereas, because of these concerns, and in accordance with Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Superintendent has recommended that the employment of certain teachers be terminated at the end of the 2010-2011 school year,

Whereas, the Superintendent has sent prior notice to said teachers informing them of the specific reasons for their termination, and

Be it RESOLVED that said teachers be terminated at the close of the school year under provisions of Title 16 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the Superintendent notify those teachers of the School Committee's action to terminate their employment.

A motion was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. McFarland and unanimously carried to remove Resolution No. 11-02-11 from the table.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS:

NO. 11-02-11- RESOLVED, that the 2011-2012 Operating Budget, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.

Discussion of the budget began with the following amendments made:

Mr. Lombardi

Madam Chair before we take up the issue, may I suggest that we ask the Superintendent to summarize for us where we are for members of the council and the media.

Superintendent Nero

Madam Chair and members of the School Committee, sometimes people come to the microphone and suggest things that I have discussed at length last year. I did not want to sound like a broken record throughout these proceedings as I did last year, but sometimes; I'm a school teacher by nature and although we may learn certain principles and certain things in one class and we repeat them sometimes over and over during the course of the year because they're important then they transition from one year to the next; therefore, throughout this process I didn't want to sound redundant when we talk about "The nice to haves" vs. "The must haves" and all of those different things but let me just remind everybody of some things that are important. You heard me mention tonight about a very dark day in October or close to November of 2003 and I can remember being at Cranston High School East and the situation being at nighttime and kids were literally running into the street with picket signs. It was just a horrible mess. At that time, the Superintendent of Schools, was kind of in a vicious battle with the

Mayor, I believe. The issue was the number in terms of what the budget needed to work that year. There were some very visceral statements made and there was some very “shot from the hip” things that were done and one of the things that were done was the Superintendent made a decision to cut all sports in the district at that time. About that time, the Mayor and the Council were lining up Performance Auditors because we know we were heading for Caruolo. I walked out that night and I was just principal at Western Hills Middle School at the time and I walked out and said that I was really concerned about the future of this district. We went into Caruolo that year and not knowing a lot about it, the Superintendent made her testimony based on what she thought was the best educational programs for this district. It really had nothing to do with what the Caruolo Statute was. As a result, it kicked out at the time what was called a Performance Audit. That performance audit was the Abrams Report and you’ve heard me say this before. The Abrams Report was a report that was basically taken and placed on a shelf. In 2006, I’m appointed as Assistant Superintendent of schools and we had probably a small deficit of about \$130,000 for the 2006-2007 school year. I think we had some surplus accounts though, as well, even though we were showing a deficit. We ended up coming up with a budget, my first year as the Assistant Superintendent, recommended by the Superintendent, of several million dollars more than what was previously requested the year before, above the Maintenance of Effort. Given all of that at the time, the Mayor Napolitano, had numerous conversations with us regarding the fact

of how he would get money for us. I'm not going to go into promises that were made; please wait and see; we're going to try and help you out, etc. I know Mr. Lanni on the other side has always said one time they heard it was 6 million, 7 million, 5 – 4 million dollars and we couldn't arrive on a figure. I remember in May of that year, when we said we couldn't wait any further and our attorney said that we needed to file Caruolo. I also remember Mr. Carlucci being ripping mad in the back and said, "Why did you do this; why didn't you wait, we could have worked something out" and we never did. We went into court basically looking like fools. We got lambasted in one Caruolo Action because we filed too early and we got lambasted in another Caruolo Action because we filed too late. What we were really looking for was to wait until the dust settles and see what the actuals were. We got beaten up in court. I can remember that I had to testify in court at great length regarding the Abrams report. The Abrams report should have been a blueprint because that's what the Performance Audit is found where we should go. There were several things that were in that report that we could have done, including looking at the privatization of Food Service, Transportation and all of those other things. Now, again, I testified on some of the things we did including keeping the 6th grade at the Elementary School. That was considered, in our Performance Audit, to be one of the best decisions that we made moving forward because it saved us a considerable amount of money and it filled out our elementary schools. You heard me say this over and over again last year. I never want to go to court again. But, if I do, I would want to make

sure that I did everything that was in the Performance Audit. I've taken a beating publically a number of times because I said that I was going to do what was in the Performance Audit. I sat through council meetings with that small group of council and the Mayor that when we came up with the Consent Order, didn't have much say in the Consent Order, but I said that it was time to move forward because what other choices do we have. I've made cuts to areas that I don't want to do. As Liz said, we have cut diamond programs down to bare bones. We have now reached.....my cover letter is pretty clear on the budget and I will tell you this, we are not in excess of the BEP anymore. Last year, when I heard Council members say, "Are you at the BEP Level yet?" Folks, we're at the BEP level. There's nothing else left. I don't know what else to tell you or what else to offer you. I heard Jay...I apologize for talking to you when you came to me about becoming an administrator because I was the one that told you that you made my day. No different with Dennis or Tommy did. There are some principals in our schools that I know that have interned under me and then I opened up the paper this week and see what's going on in East Providence and there we are praised in that article because they said how is it that Cranston Public Schools has 10,000 students and we have 5,000...no we don't....we have 10,754 students at this time; almost 11,000 and they're doing it with far less administrators than we have in this district right now. I look at Lori, President of the Secretaries. We have cut secretaries; we have cut 10 Administrators; we have cut....I gave you 221 FTE's; it is not 221 people. It's over 350 people that I've given because I included in that, half time people that

I put together and made them whole. But we have put 350 people out of work in this district. There is nothing that this Superintendent, his certified and non-certified staff has not worked on to get this budget to where we are at the BEP level. There's nothing left. I've said this a million times. We make extra virgin olive oil; you press that olive; what's left is pulp and pumice. We have reached that level. I look at Annette; Annette, you think it makes me feel good to cut these programs? Absolutely not. But we have cut them to the bare bones. No one could ever say that the Superintendent and his staff did not do what they were supposed to do. We've done it all. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Lombardi

Joe, obviously the way we've done this in the past; you're going to run a running figure with the calculator so that the public can follow along. I want to just start by saying that the revenues that we expect are \$130,893,318. Our expected expenses based on Mr. Nero's representation, at the BEP, is \$132,996,380. Unfortunately Mr. Balducci, I'm going to go in the opposite direction for a moment.

We received a memo dated February 22, 2011 from legal counsel which I will read into the record:

The administration had asked the Auditor General's office for opinion regarding the above matter. The matter being the inclusion of the Deficit Reduction Payment in our cap request. Attorney Paul Ragosta

from the office of the Auditor General communicated to Ron Cascione that because the Deficit Reduction Payment was in our budget, it would have to be included in the calculation of the statutory cap on our request to the City.

I would respectfully make an adjustment to add back into our cap request, the amount of the Deficit Reduction Plan for this coming fiscal year (2011-2012) in the amount of \$1,573,891, leaving us with a net operating deficit of \$3,676,953. I would place that in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Culhane. With there being no discussion on this proposed amendment, the vote was taken:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mrs. McFarland Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Lombardi

I have a question for the Superintendent. I heard you loud and clear. I ask you as Superintendent of Schools, is there any question in your mind that we are at the BEP?

Superintendent Nero

There is no question in my mind.

Mr. Lombardi

Is there any area in your mind that we are above the BEP?

Superintendent Nero

We have followed the Performance Audit exactly in dismantling the programs as they suggested.

Mr. Lombardi

Accordingly, Madame Chair, I just want to point out that as we partake in this task of cutting down the \$3,676,953, we are under a legal responsibility to request the cap money in order to comply with the Basic Education Plan. Mr. Nero: You are correct.

Mrs. Ruggieri

Making a motion to increase the Medicaid Reimbursement revenue line item by \$200,000. We believe based on the current trends that this is a reasonable amount that we can increase. Mr. Lombardi, seconded the motion. There being no discussion on this proposed amendment, the vote was taken:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Lombardi

Madam Chair, I would like to make a proposal, because I see no other

place to go but to anticipate concessions with our bargaining units and I'm intimately involved in the Transportation area and as you know, there's an RFP out there for privatization but we're negotiating actively with our current bargaining unit in Transportation. Based on what I know, I am comfortable in making the suggestion that we budget a salary concession in the area of Transportation in the amount of \$793,961. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bloom. There being no discussion on this proposed amendment, the vote was taken:

Mr. Traficante Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Mrs. McFarland Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

At this time the Chair was assumed by Mr. Lombardi.

Ms. Iannazzi

We heard a lot this evening about shared sacrifice and moving forward together as a district. I know our employees and I know members of the school committee and members of the administration; none of us entered this field for fame or fortune or glory; however, we're all here together trying to do the best that we

can for the students of Cranston. Mr. Nero, Ms. Larkin and I recently returned from Denver. We were there at the invitation of the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan. And there, we learned about what other districts are doing to collaborate. Cranston is already doing the things that other people are talking about. Cranston has a team that's already talking about developing a new evaluation tool. Cranston already has a positive working relationship between management and labor. A large part of the seminars in Denver were focused on trust building and opening the lines of communication. We have that in Cranston and we are going to continue to build on that trust and respect and admiration for one another. Mr. Cowart and Mr. DeCristofaro spoke about wanting to make sure that the school committee realizes and appreciates the work that administrators in the district do. We do. You're speaking to the choir. We realize that not only you but several Cranston employees are going on years four and five without a raise. Look at our own secretaries. We have Mrs. Macera and Ms. Leone who are in the same position and they've actually assumed the job responsibility of another individual. The School Committee used to have their own secretary but these two individuals came forward and assumed the responsibilities of that individual's job. We understand that the district has to move forward together as a school committee, as employees and ...actually some of the greatest ideas come from the students themselves; however, in that vein of cooperation, I'm going to offer a series of three amendments seeking concessions from our Cranston Teachers' Alliance.

Ms. Iannazzi offered the following amendment:

With the line item of “Salaries Concessions for Teachers” in the amount of \$1,416,203 and accrued pension savings from that salary amount in the amount of \$187,364 and health care savings for the teachers in the amount of \$429,975.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Culhane.

Mrs. Culhane

I just wanted to reiterate what Chairwoman Iannazzi said. I’m in my own school every day and I know how hard my principal works. I know how hard every single teacher, custodian, secretary and every special teacher works in the district and I hope that this is not seen as some kind of statement on how we value you or any kind of testament to the job that we think you do. I’m the first one to commend how fantastic all of our teachers, administrators and employees are. In reiterating what she said, these are very difficult times and we need to say to the students that while they’re taking hits on the things that they’re giving up, everybody is willing to come to the table and do their share.

There being no further comments, the vote (roll) was taken:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mr. Traficante Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mrs. McFarland abstain Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Ms. Iannazzi

Last budget season this School Committee voted that going forward any administrative contract that was either a new hire or an extension of a contract that the health care cost sharing would be 25%. In addition to that, I would offer an amendment regarding any contract that's coming up that's going to be renewed; all certified administrative contracts, the cost share will now move to 25%; however, an addition to that I would offer that any non-certified administrator receiving a salary of \$75,000 or higher will pay that same 25% cost share and the amount that I would move to amend as health savings for administrators is \$42,890. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bloom. There being no discussion, the roll (vote) was taken:

Mr. Traficante Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Mrs. McFarland Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri

The last meeting, we discussed the stipend that is paid to the School Buildings' Committee secretary for meetings, which is a committee made up of City and School Officials and I don't believe that at this point we can continue to pay this stipend for this secretary. I believe

it either needs to be a shared cost or it needs to be eliminated from the school side budget altogether. When we have sub-committee meetings, I don't believe that we have a stipend set aside for our own secretaries to come and take minutes. We make sure that those things are done without having to pay somebody for that. We believe that this can be done at this sub-committee level as well. This would be a savings of \$2,160. Mr. Lombardi seconded the motion.

Mrs. McFarland

I was going to second that but I would just add that there is an ability to be flexible so I do agree with this amendment.

There being no further discussion the roll (vote) was taken:

Mr. Traficante Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Lombardi

Keeping in line, Madam Chair, obviously and looking to all of our collective bargaining units for concessions, I had asked Mr. Balducci to compile some numbers with respect to the Teacher Assistants. I'm going to offer an amendment, similar to yours in a sense that it's in three parts and the amendment would be to seek salary concessions from the Teacher Assistants in the amount of \$33,015 and in the area

of pension savings, the amount of \$1948 and in the area of health care savings, the amount of \$197,468. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bloom. There being no discussion, the roll (vote) was called:

Mrs. McFarland Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mr. Bloom Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Recuse Mr. Lombardi Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Bloom

In reference to the custodians, we have some health insurance savings of \$147,832. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lombardi. There being no discussion, the roll (vote) was taken:

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. Ruggieri Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

At this time, Mr. Lombardi asked Mr. Balducci where we were with the numbers:

Mr. Balducci reported that this leaves approximately \$224,137 left to balance this budget.

Mr. Lombardi

In the area of Health Care, since I was involved with the issue

regarding Transportation and that area related there too, again I asked Mr. Balducci regarding health care savings on the Trades People in that area. While it's a small number, I think every number counts. I would move amendment to the concessions for Health Care savings in the area of Trades People in the amount of \$12,939. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Culhane. There being no discussion, the roll (vote) was taken:

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Mrs. McFarland Yes Mr. Lombardi Yes

Mrs. Culhane Yes Mr. Bloom Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Lombardi

Bringing everyone to the table, again, I asked Mr. Balducci regarding the area of secretaries and this would be in the form of two points regarding the secretaries. I would offer an amendment for salary concessions for the secretaries as a realistic number of \$86,747 and a pension savings related there to of \$5,118. The motion was seconded by Mr. Traficante. There being no discussion the roll (vote) was called:

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Balducci announced that at this time, we are at \$119,333.

Mr. Lombardi

Before I make this amendment, I'd ask Mrs. Coogan, "with respect to any overage amounts for reimbursement potential on "out-of-district special education", could you enlighten me in terms of expectations regarding reimbursement in that regard?

Mrs. Coogan

We have put in a proposal to the State within a grant for reimbursement for overages and we expect that that would be approved. There are 66 students that qualify for reimbursement over \$52,000.

Mr. Lombardi

I think the number is 66 students and since I respect your opinion in this area, immensely, would it be reasonable to expect reimbursement of \$119,333 in that area. Mrs. Coogan: "yes". Accordingly, based on that presentation by Mrs. Coogan, I would move to amend to include special education tuitions in the amount of \$119,333. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Culhane.

Mrs. Culhane

Mrs. Coogan, could you just explain for everyone here how exactly that works with this because not everybody understands how that

number exactly is derived.

Mr. Lombardi

It's my understanding that we, if I may, have the ability to receive amounts of money over and above a certain formulated amount. Is that correct – Yes. For instance if the average out-of-district placement for a child at Cranston is responsible for, in the special education area, is \$50,000. We are eligible for reimbursement for monies over and above that. That money over and above, there is a potential 66 students that fit that criteria. And, arguably, there would be potential for additional monies over and above the \$119,000 but since we're balancing a budget tonight, the number remains at that number and Mrs. Coogan is comfortable with that number.

There being no further discussion, the roll (vote) was taken:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mr. Lombardi

At this time, Madam Chair, in light of the fact that we have a meeting on the final budget resolution on Monday, I would respectfully move

that we Table approval of the final budget until Monday. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. The roll was called:

Mr. Bloom Yes Mrs. Culhane Yes

Mr. Lombardi Yes Mrs. McFarland Yes

Mrs. Ruggieri Yes Mr. Traficante Yes

Ms. Iannazzi Yes

Mrs. McFarland reported that, due to her scheduling and due to the lateness of notification of the meeting of Monday night, she will be unable to attend due to a prior commitment and meeting at the same time.

Mr. Bloom

I would just like to make a couple of comments. First of all a reformatted budget mirroring the presentation of the City has been completed with the help of a couple of parents and Mr. Balducci has taken a lot of time to re-format the new UCOA budget so that it is similar to the budget that has previously been prepared by the School Committee. That budget is in Mr. Balducci's hands right now. It includes a six-year format that is very similar to what I presented two weeks ago and that will become the final document for which the School Committee will be adopting.

I did want to provide a couple of comments to reiterate some of the things that my colleagues have said tonight in reference to what you

just heard happen, in terms of amendments. Two weeks ago, I made a presentation and outlined some additional revenues that I thought were more appropriate for the City to be taking on and tonight you heard the School Committee adopt amendments that were consistent with revenues under the cap which is a difference of about one million. That is because, as Mr. Lombardi mentioned earlier, we have some legal requirements for which we do have to request that money under the cap. Whether that happens or not or whether or not the monies that were laid out in my proposal two weeks ago, remains to be seen. That will depend upon the Mayor's budget that will be proposed and also upon the City Council's decisions deliberating that particular budget.

I just want to close with reminding the public and the press that this committee has two legal obligations. The first is to provide a balanced budget, and that's what you heard with amendments made tonight, which we will then be making the final adoption of the budget on Monday. We also have to meet the BEP and with the culmination with what we have just been deliberating this body believes that we are not in excess of the BEP; that we are in conformance with the Performance Audit and in conformance with the Consent Order. We hope that what we have presented is a path for this City as a whole not just the school district but the City, the taxpayers and the students where we can all workout and come to an understanding that will allow us to provide the services that we've all enjoyed. Thank you.

Mr. Lombardi

Thank you. To echo what Mr. Bloom just said, and I want to end by what I said at the beginning, sometimes people misinterpret what I have to say and I really believe that the gentlemen on the City Council respectfully and the Mayor, if he were here, this is our problem. It's our collective problem. It's not our problem. It's not the Mayor's problem. It's not your problem. It's our problem. And, implicit in that you can see that about 3 ½ million dollars of our balancing tonight's budget comes from concessions. You're going to play an integral role in that as Council Members because now you are required, under the recent referenda to ratify all of our contracts. So you're going to play an integral role in that. But, when you play that integral role, I'd invite you to come to the table with us. I'd invite you to tell us if you think that there's a BEP problem. If the Mayor thinks so, please tell us. If you think we're not in conformance with the Consent Order, please tell us. If you think we've violated the Performance Audit in any way or we've skirted the Performance Audit, please tell us. This is our problem. Times are dire and really bad but we're asking faithfully our collective bargaining units and our administrators to collectively cough up \$3.5 million. It's no joke. There's no money hidden anywhere and this is it. This is a do or die at this point. Thank you.

Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items

Mr. Tomlins

Thank you. It's not only interesting but pleasing to hear. I think maybe I was a year ahead of myself. So many of you now are talking about this is our problem. Quite frankly I haven't heard that before as much as we should have heard it. What I heard mostly is from the two committees there's a lot of fur flying, let's put it that way. One accusing the other. That gets nothing done. To go back to what you said, Mr. Nero, at that meeting at East, they came in in uniforms and they came in pounding their drums. I remember students getting up and say and crying that they weren't going to be able to get their scholarship because we were taking this away and that away. Then the bullhorn out front. We're probably still paying for some of those sins but I think we're getting over that, thank god. But, I would still like to see some students here. I wish there were students here that would come to you and explain what it means, other than us because we're not the students, to them for the cut in music. I do agree with both Mr. Lombardi and Mrs. Culhane. Everything is important; I've always said that. A student's education is not the A, B, C's. You have to have all these other programs to make a whole student that goes out to become citizens and our future leaders.

Those are proposed savings; you still have to negotiate them, correct? Yes

Does your budget still include the 4.25% contribution from the City?

Yes

Ms. Iannazzi – However, inclusive of that 4.25% is the Debt Repayment as part.

Has the Cityif the Mayor and the Council goes along to level fund

you, where are you? Thank you very much. Good luck.

**Announcement of Future Meetings – February 28, March 7, March 16
and March 21, 2011**

Adjourn Public Work Session

**Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously
carried that the meeting be adjourned.**

**There being no further business to come before the School
Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Lombardi

School Committee Clerk